

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly

I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN FOR AN INCOME ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN HEALTH CARE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY to age 18, regardless of immigration status, is an important step in ensuring that our immigrant community has access to the health care we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and health care to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

o I am Emedio Garcia and I have been working and paying taxes here in the U.S. for 15 years. After I arrived here, I had a family situation in which my youngest son came from my country and when he arrived here we started an asylum case and we have encountered the barrier of not having health insurance and we have not been able to find medical attention for him. I have been given a doctor where I go to a community health center and I pay \$20 for a consultation but they can't do a more thorough examination for any illness that you have and in the case of my son, who is graduating from high school this year, we have been limited in terms of health insurance, there are very few options. I have many acquaintances who are going through this same situation, some more than others, because their children are younger than my son Walter, for example, he has a problem with nosebleeds but due to the lack of medical insurance, we have not been able to check in depth what it really is or ask for a general checkup for this condition to see what is wrong with him, so I add my voice for the approval of a medical insurance from 9 to 18 years old for undocumented children.

I support S.B. 284 and ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Going forward, I ask the committee to work to open access to all immigrants, regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,
Emedio